

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 14 are amended by the present amendment. Claim amendments find support in the application as originally filed, thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Action, Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bishop et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,826,082 herein referred to as “Bishop”) in view of Nassor (U.S. Patent No. 6,687,800).

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Bishop and Nassor, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 recites, in part,

transmitting a first resource management instruction for making ready or releasing resources in the chipcard to a resource management centre external to the chipcard, the first resource management instruction comprising a module identification identifying the chipcard;

determining in the external resource management centre if sufficient resources are available in the chipcard identified through the module identification to meet requirements of the first resource management instruction;

transmitting a second resource management instruction from the external resource management centre via an external telecommunication network to the chipcard identified through the module identification;

making ready or releasing resources, in accordance with the received second resource management instruction, through a resource control mechanism in the identified chipcard;

transmitting a resource management confirmation from the identified chipcard via the telecommunication network to the external resource management centre; and

storing information in the external resource management centre about the resources made ready or released in the chipcard, the information being stored assigned to the module identification.

Claim 7 recites a system claim including analogous features and Claim 13 recites the resource management centre with analogous features.

Bishop teaches an internal resource management method for managing resources in a computer system.¹ After receiving a request for an operation, the resource manager determines if the amount of the resource specified by the request is available, and if so, allocates the resource for the operation.² The resource manager includes an in-use table, where said in-use table indicates an amount of a resource having been allocated to a thread.³

However, as is acknowledged on page 6 of the outstanding Action, Bishop does not teach transmitting a resource management confirmation via a telecommunication network to the external resource management centre, or storing information in the external resource management centre about the resources made ready or released, the information being stored assigned to the module identification. Particularly, Bishop does not teach transmitting the resource management confirmation from the identified chipcard via the telecommunication network to the external resource management centre.

In other words, in Bishop, all resource management is handled locally by the resource manager, without including transmission of a confirmation from the chipcard to the external resource management centre.

However, the outstanding Action relies on Nassor as curing the above noted deficiencies of Bishop with regard to the claimed invention.

Nassor teaches a chipcard comprising means for loading and unloading programmable memory of the chipcard, during operation of the chipcard.⁴ According to Nassor, when a command for running an application is received by a reader cooperating with the card, the operating system of the card analyzes the contents of its memory and determines whether it is

¹ see Bishop, Abstract.

² see Bishop, col. 6, lines 19-30.

³ see Bishop, col. 6, line 52.

⁴ see Nassor, Abstract.

necessary to use the network to unload part of its memory, and/or reload-previously unloaded applicative information.⁵ The operating system of the card can send a report, through the reader, to the card holder or the application provider, indicating that the loading of the application has been performed correctly.⁶ Therefore, the operating system of the card internally determines whether there exists a need to use the network to unload or load data.⁷

However, contrary to Nassor, the Applicant's claimed invention teaches transmitting a second resource management instruction from the external resource management centre via an external telecommunication network to the chipcard. The resource management centre then determines if sufficient resources are available in the chipcard identified by the instruction. Therefore, in the claimed invention it is the resource management centre rather than the local operating system of the chipcard, as is the case in Nassor that manages the resources.

In other words, Nassor teaches that the operating system of the card determines whether to load or unload data. Once it has done so, it may send a report from the chipcard through a card reader to the card holder or the application provider, indicating that the loading of the application was performed correctly. However this report is not a resource management confirmation concerning whether resources have been made ready or released.

Finally, Nassor does not teach storing information in the external resource management center about the resources made ready or released in the chipcard, based on the transmitted resource management confirmation received by the external resource management centre. Nassor only teaches sending a report from the chipcard through a card reader to the card holder or the application provider, indicating that the loading of the application was performed correctly. Nassor does not teach a data store for storing information about the resources made ready or released external to the chipcard, because the

⁵ see Nassor, col. 2, lines 18-23.

⁶ see Nassor, col. 7, lines 7-11; col. 9, lines 11-22.

⁷ see Nassor, col. 2, lines 17-22.

table referenced to in Nassor is located in the internal memory of the chipcard, and not at the application provider.⁸

As an additional note, Bishop does not teach managing the resources of a chipcard; particularly, Bishop does not teach managing the resources of a chipcard connected to a communication terminal. Bishop specifically teaches that the resources are of a computer system and not a chipcard connected to the resource management centre over a telecommunications network.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the above noted reasons Claim 1 and similarly Claims 7 and 13, and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Bishop and Nassor considered individually or in combination.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

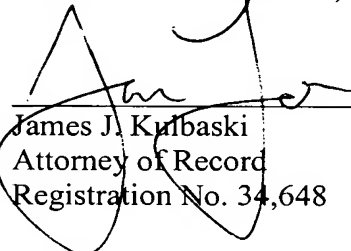
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⁸ see Nassor, col. 7, lines 7-11.